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NO SUPREME COURT RELIEF FOR NGOs THAT LOST FCRA LICENCE

The SC on Tuesday turned down a plea seeking quashing of the Centre's refusal to renew the FCRA licences of 5,789 NGOs

PETITIONER WANTED EXTENSION OF PERMITS

FCRA registration is mandatory for entities in India for receiving foreign funding. The plea was filed by US-based 'Global Peace Initiative'. Its counsel advocate Sanjay Hegde told a three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that they were seeking a direction from the court to extend the FCRA licences of NGOs if they applied within the next two weeks

APPROACH GOVT AUTHORITIES, SAYS SC

- However, the bench refused any interim relief and directed the petitioner to approach relevant government authorities
- Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the licences of 11,594 NGOs, which had sought renewal within a cut-off date, had been renewed | P9

16,880

NUMBER OF ACTIVE FCRA LICENCES ISSUED IN THE COUNTRY AS ON JANUARY 25

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

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IMF CUTS INDIA'S FY22 GROWTH FORECAST TO 9%

The International Monetary Fund has cut India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year from 9.5% projected earlier, citing lingering impact of Covid on business activity | P13

NATIONWIDE	JAN 24	JAN 25
Fresh cases	3,06,064	2,55,874
Recoveries	2,43,495	2,62,753
Deaths	439	614

KARNATAKA	JAN 24	JAN 25
Fresh cases	46,426	41,400
Recoveries	41,703	53,093
Deaths	32	52

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

January 24: 49,52,290 doses

January 25: 51,64,473 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 1,63,49,62,508

EXPRESS READ

SC notice to Centre, EC on irrational freebies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court issued notice to Centre and Election Commission of India seeking direction to seize election symbols and deregister political parties that promised to distribute irrational freebies from public funds. The court said, "It's a serious issue. The freebies budget goes beyond the regular budget." P10

Biggest Padmas to Kalyan Singh, Gen Bipin Rawat

CPM's Buddha rejects his Padma Bhushan

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

IN what appeared to be an attempt to strike the right notes in the poll-bound states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Centre on Tuesday awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award in India, posthumously to former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh and General Bipin Rawat, who hailed from Uttarakhand and was India's first Chief of Defence Staff. Gen Rawat died in a helicopter crash in December last year.

Two senior leaders of the opposition — Ghulam Nabi Azad (Congress) and Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (CPM) — were on the list of Padma awardees announced by the Centre on the eve of the 73rd Republic Day. Both were honoured with the Padma Bhushan, but Bhattacharjee later said he would reject it. "Nobody told me about it. If I have been awarded the Padma Bhushan, I would reject it," he said. But the Centre said his wife had been informed, adding she did not get back to convey the rejection.

Azad, one of the members of the G23, the Congress rebel group, was given an emotional farewell by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when his tenure ended in Rajya Sabha in February last year. Azad has been vocal on calling for sweeping organisational changes and a permanent accountable leadership in the Congress.

Vaccine makers featured prominently on the list. Cyrus Poonawalla, founder of Pune-based Serum Institute of India and Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech's chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder wife Suchitra Ella were awarded Padma Bhushan. Indian-origin Silicon Valley titans Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, classical vocalists Dr Prabha Atre and Rashid Khan and former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Rajiv Mehrishi, too, were awarded Padmas.

Among sports persons, paralympic gold medallist Devendra Jhajharia was conferred Padma Bhushan. Para javelin thrower Sumit Antil, para shooter Avani Lekhara, para badminton player Pramod Bhagat and Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra were named for Padma Shri. Famous singer Sonu Nigam and Jamia Millia Islamia's first woman Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar, too, were on that list.

Of the 128 Padma awards, four were Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shris. FULL LIST: P9

PADMA BHUSHAN

Ghulam Nabi Azad

Satya Narayana Nadella

Sundararajan Pichai

5 from K'taka get Padma Shri awards

Bengaluru: All the five personalities from Karnataka, who have been chosen for the country's top civilian honour, will get Padma Shri awards. They are Dalit poet Prof Siddalingaiah (posthumous), HR Keshava Murthy (Gamaka exponent), Abdul Khader Nadakattin (grassroot innovation), Subbanna Ayyappan (science and engineering) and Amai Mahalinga Naik (agriculture).

At 52, highest deaths in state in 3rd wave, but mortality down

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA saw its highest number of 52 Covid deaths in the third wave taking the state toll to 38,666. However, the mortality rate reduced from 1.08 percent to 1.07 percent. Of the state's deaths, 16,526 are from Bengaluru, accounting to 42.74 percent.

For the first time in this wave, a higher number of discharges were reported than the new cases added. There were 53,093 recoveries in the day – the highest in this wave – against 41,400 fresh cases. Due to the large number of discharges, the recovery rate rose from 88.74 per cent to 89.19 per cent, and the active cases reduced to 3,50,742 from 3,62,487 (a drop of 3.24 per cent). Bengaluru saw a dip in its active cases from 2,26,385 on Monday to 2,12,460 (a drop of 6.15 per cent). The city recorded the number of discharged (33,011) higher than the fresh cases (19,105). The state capital's tally went up to 16,26,331, but the recovery rate in Bengaluru too increased to 85.92 per cent from the previous day's 84.88%.

The city's mortality rate reduced to 1.01 percent, though 19 deaths were reported on Tuesday.

"The third wave is expected to recede by February second or third week as per ICMR. Other than Bengaluru, the positivity rate has been less in other districts. It was about 22 per cent last week which has now increased to 32%," Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said.

"About 5,230 infected persons are hospitalised, including 3,442 in government and 1,788 in private hospitals. Only about 2 per cent infected persons out of 3.62 lakh-odd active cases are in hospitals, which indicates that the severity of infection is not as high as it was during the second wave. It is generally seen that people are recovering within 5-6 days, so there is no need to panic. However, people must not let their guard down," he cautioned. The state's tally of cases stood at 36,05,508 and the overall pandemic positivity rate increased from 5.87 percent to 5.92 per cent.

Wildest dream comes true: Sighting tiger in wild

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

As you step inside tiger territory, the first thing that comes to your mind is the saying: "You are safe when you sight the animal first and not the other way around!"

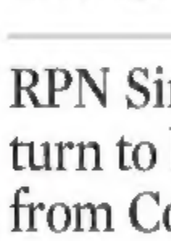
This is exactly what one learns in the domain of tigers.

One has to walk carefully with minimum disturbance (even avoiding the rustling of dry leaves beneath the feet) so the animals are not disturbed and you are able to count them. Walking in the core critical tiger habitat, one needs perseverance, patience and alertness. This crucial effort makes a forest staffer, and it is even more vital during a census. P7

RPN Singh's turn to bolt from Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE haemorrhage in the Congress continued with another dynast and former Union minister R P N Singh (57) joining the BJP on Tuesday. That it happened a day after his name figured on the list of Congress star campaigners for the first phase of elections in Uttar Pradesh, indicated the party high command was possibly clueless about his bolting.



Singh hails from Padrauna in UP and is the son of late Congress leader C P N Singh. He was considered close to former party chief Rahul Gandhi.

"I spent 32 years in one party. But that party has not remained the same as it was before," Singh said. He joins a long list of Congress deserters like Jitin Prasada, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sushmita Dev.

"RPN Singh left just before the elections, after he was listed as a star campaigner in UP. This was not a coincidence. It was planned... But the question for us in INC is, why did we let it happen this way?" Salman Soz, another dynast, tweeted.

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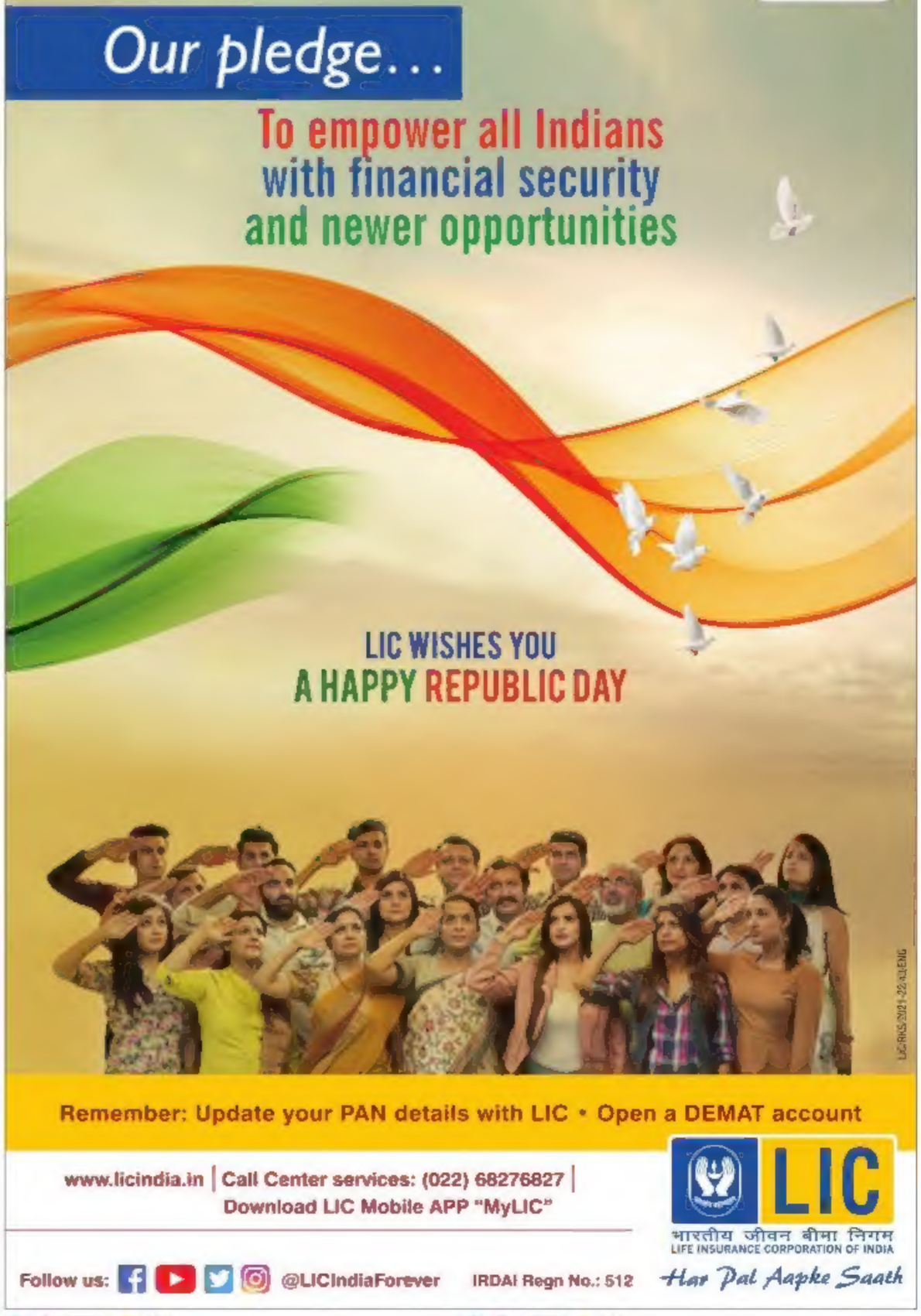
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